**­ CRITICAL THINKING 4-STEP CHECKLIST**

MUS 217 Critical and Creative Thinking Seminar • 2013

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| 1. Reporter- Summarizes- Objective, face value:• Absorbs “like a sponge”• Takes the first step in seeking to understand• Restates the information with an open mind | Who:   * Source (book excerpt, scholarly article, youtube video, etc.) * Date and location * Author, institution/company * Credentials     What:   * Main issue (write as a question) * Main thesis (write as an answer) |
| 2. Investigative Journalist- Analyzes- Objective, deep:• “Pans for gold”• Interacts with the information • Walks in the author’s shoes • Follows the logic in its proper context with an open mind | How:   * 3 Main reasons that support the thesis (write out the logic) * Approach: Documentation? Reference to peer-reviewed science? Appeal to emotion? Fairness to alternate views?     Why:   * Author’s personal & cultural background, values, paradigm * Intention: To persuade? Sell? Inflame? Financed by whom?   To Whom:   * Intended audience |
| 3. Columnist- Evaluates- Subjective, deep:• “Pans for gold”• Interprets the information within his/her own context• Looks for deeper truth and implications • Takes a stand, backed by logic | Individual Perspectives:   * I choose the viewpoints of a: scientist, artist, student, expert in the field, skeptic, supporter, etc. (healthy, happy, alert?)     Universal Perspective:   * The issue in light of the Science of Consciousness   Subjective Reflection:   * Response on the feeling level   Objective Evaluation & Reflection:   * Implications, alternate viewpoints, conclusions & questions (write out the logic) |
| 4. Creative Individual - Synthesizes, enriches | Creative Application:   * Action steps for solutions, further research, relevance to other fields |